

is up to us to raise the alarm. It is our responsibility to stem this rising tide and take back our communities, our homes, our schools, and our places of worship. We have seen that this is a pattern. We have witnessed the terrible outcomes and measured the tragic human cost. Now it is time to take action.

Certainly, we can make progress by increasing gun control and making it more difficult for weapons to fall into the hands of criminals. This effort must be a part of any comprehensive solution, and it is an issue I have fought for throughout my career. But the reality is, a debate about gun control will quickly turn into a pitched partisan battle. It will consume time and political will, and in the end, we may not get very far.

I believe we need to take a more practical, more immediate approach. It is time to give our young people an alternative to destructive behavior so they can spend their summers working to get ahead instead of getting involved in criminal activities. Today, more than half of Black men between the ages of 16 and 19 are unemployed. This number is growing rapidly. In fact, the New York Times predicts that this summer will be one of the bleakest on record. So if we would like to cut down on violent crime, this is exactly where we need to start.

It is no accident that last year's landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a major summer jobs component. It created more than 300,000 summer jobs for youth across the country, including some 17,000 in Illinois alone.

This year, we need to do even more. That is why I am proud to cosponsor S. 2923, the Youth Jobs Act of 2010, introduced by the distinguished Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY. This legislation would build on the success of the Recovery Act, setting aside \$1.5 billion for youth employment opportunities through the Workforce Investment Act. It would infuse money directly into the local economy and give young people the chance to gain paid work experience, what Senator REID spoke about the other day, the gentleman who set up a work opportunity and found out that the youth don't even have the work experience or they don't even know how to work. We have to get them some paid work experience. This will keep them off the streets in the short term and give them better employment options down the road. It would create half a million summer jobs from coast to coast and put a serious dent in the youth unemployment rate. It will spur young people to invest in their future and help foster a better community.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill without delay. We can do this right now. It will cut down on violent crime and have a real effect on people's lives across America. There is no reason to wait another day or another moment. That is why I am so frustrated by the

obstructionism that has afflicted this legislation for the past 6 months.

It is time to make a commitment to the next generation, give them the opportunity to start down the right path because if we don't, then every summer, when the school year ends and children seek new ways to occupy their time, more and more of them will find fellowship with the criminal element. This cycle of violence will continue.

I urge colleagues to pass the Youth Jobs Act before we adjourn for the Memorial Day recess. Let's provide our young people with the opportunity to turn away from violence. Let's give them a chance to build a constructive future. Let's take back our communities. Let's do it now. Let's do it today.

RECESS

Mr. BURRIS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m. and that the postcloture time continue to run during the recess period.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURRIS).

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010—Continued

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss the urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform in the United States.

Earlier today, the Senate considered a number of proposals for border security, and there has been extensive media attention to an administration proposal to dispatch substantial numbers of the National Guard for border security.

The Senate and the House of Representatives wrestled with this issue in 2006. Each House produced a bill. At that time, I chaired the Judiciary Committee and managed the bill in committee and on the floor. The Senate bill, known as the McCain-Kennedy bill, provided for comprehensive immigration reform.

The House passed a bill which dealt only with Border Patrol and employer verification. For reasons which need not be commented upon now, there was no conference and that bill languished.

In the following year, Senator REID, the majority leader, asked Senator Kennedy and me to lead an informal group to try to structure a comprehensive immigration reform, with the de-

cision not to run it through committee, and that effort was not successful.

As a result of the failure of Congress to act, we have seen many States and municipalities enact legislation to try to deal with this issue, in the absence of what Congress has a duty to do and should have been doing. Most recently, the Arizona law has produced enormous controversy.

The Arizona law provides that a failure to carry immigration documents would be a crime and give police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally. The essential provisions invite racial profiling, which is highly questionable on constitutional grounds. Litigation is now pending to have that act—to declare it as being unconstitutional on its face.

When Congress failed to legislate in 2006 and the informal group designated by Majority Leader REID was unsuccessful in coming up with a bill, I introduced a draft bill on July 30, 2007, as reported in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at S. 10231, which dealt with an effort to remove the fugitive status from undocumented immigrants. It was my thought at the time if we did not get into the complex issues which had proven so troublesome in 2007 and earlier in 2006, that we might be able to make some substantial progress moving forward for comprehensive immigration reform.

My thought at that time was to remove the fugitive status but not to provide for a path to citizenship. I made that suggestion even though my preference was with the Senate bill enacted the year before which did provide a path to citizenship. Even that path to citizenship was going to be long delayed. It would take at least 8 years, it was estimated, to clear up the backlog of pending applications for citizenship, and another 5 years to deal with the 12 million undocumented immigrants, so that there was not a whole lot of practical difference in eliminating the path to citizenship. That could always be taken up at a later time.

But if the fugitive status was eliminated, that would bring most of the 12 million undocumented immigrants—or at least calculated to bring most of the 12 million undocumented immigrants—out of the shadows and identify those who were holding responsible jobs, paying taxes, and raising their families, in many instances with children who were American citizens. This approach was postulated on the obvious proposition that we cannot deport 12 million people. It is simply impossible to take them into detention and to have them housed pending deportation proceedings. Bringing the undocumented immigrants out of the shadows would provide an opportunity to identify those who were convicted criminals where they posed a real threat.

At that time I visited a number of detention centers where undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes were